

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02826 220600Z

12
ACTION EUR-25

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USNMR SHAPE
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CINCLANT

S E C R E T USNATO 2826

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y DUE NUMEROUS GARBLES THROUGHOUT TEXT

E.O. 11652: GDS-12-31-82
TAGS: MCAP, NL, NATO
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS WHITE PAPER

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT DPC MEETING MAY 21, NETHERLANDS AUTHORITIES PRESENTED BRIEFING ON THEIR DRAFT DEFENSE PLAN AND ASKED FOR NATOS COMMENTS ON THE PLAN BY JUNE 21. DPC REPRESENTATIVES REACTED SHARPLY TO PLANNED REDUCTIONS, THEIR IMPACT ON DEFENSE COMMITMENTS, ON MBFR AND THEIR CONTAGIOUS EFFECT ON OTHER ALLIES. NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO REVIEW PLAN IN HOPES OF PROVIDING NATO COMMENTS TO THE NETHERLANDS BY JUNE 24. END SUMMMARY.

1. AT DPC MEETING MAY 21, NETHERLANDS AUTHORITIES PRESENTED BRIEFING ON DRAFT DEFENSE PLAN. LT GEN WIJTING, CHIEF OF NETHERLANDS DEFENSE STAFF, INTRODUCED PRESENTATION BY STRESSING THAT: GON WAS CONSULTING ON A DRAFT PLAN, GONS FINAL DECISION WOULD BE MADE JUNE 21, GON HOPED NATOS ASSESSMENT COULD BE SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 02826 220600Z

PROVIDED BEFORE THAT DATE SINCE IT WAS POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GON NOT TO ISSUE THE WHITE PAPER DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE. HE URGED PERM REPS TO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE PLAN SINCE ANY LEAKAGES WOULD INHIBIT THE GONS ABILITY TO

ADOPT NATO COMMENTS.

2. NETHERLANDS PERM REPS STATEMENT(SEPTEL) PROVIDES SUBSTANCE OF DRAFT DEFENSE PLAN. TEXT OF GON PRESENTATION, INCLUDING SLIDES, POUCHED TO STATE, DEFENSE AND AMEMB THE HAGUE.

3. ADM HILL-NORTON(CHAIRMAN, MC) DID NOT BELIEVE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES(NMA) COULD GIVE A THOROUGH MILITARY ASSESSMENT OF THE DRAFT DEFENSE PLAN WITHIN THE TIME REQUESTED BY THE GON, BUT THE NMAS HAD ALREADY STARTED WORK ON A FIRST MILITARY IMPRESSION OF THE PLAN. HE THEN OFFERED HIS PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON THE PLAN: THE REDUCTION IN CONSCRIPT SERVICE COULD NOT FAIL TO ACT TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF NATOS MILITARY POSTURE; THE OVERALL PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS ENVISAGED TOTALLED ABOUT 20 PERCENT; THERE WAS A POINT WHERE QUALITY COULD NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR QUANTITY AND THE NETHERLANDS PLAN WENT BEYOND THAT POINT; THE FAILURE TO MECHANIZE THE 5TH DIVISION WOULD MEAN THAT THE NETHERLANDS CORPS IN NORTHAG COULD NOT FULFILL ITS MISSION; THE PLAN CALLED FOR A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF READY FORCES AND IT WAS READY FORCES THAT COUNTED; THE LACK OF FINANCIAL DATA AND INFORMATION ON THE APPORTIONMENT OF FINANCES PRECLUDED HIM FROM GIVING ADVICE ON EQUIPMENT THE GON SHOULD PROCURE; THE MOST SERIOUS IMPACT OF THE PLAN WAS ON THE NETHERLANDS ARMY, WITH ALL THE CONSEQUENCES THAT REDUCED ARMY CAPABILITIES ENTAIL.

4. DE STAERCKE(BELGIUM) DECLARED HIMSELF SPEECHLESS. HE PRAISED THE NETHERLANDS MILITARY BRIEFERS FOR THEIR CANDID AND OBJECTIVE APPROACH IN PRESENTING SUCH A DISASTEROUS BRIEFING. HE REFERRED TO HARTOGHS STATEMENT AS BRUTAL. HE RECALLED THAT FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, THE NETHERLANDS HAD SET AN EXAMPLE OF MERITOUIOUS CONDUCT IN THE ALLIANCE YET WAS NOW SEEKING A REPLY FROM ITS NATO PARTNERS ON SUCH A SERIOUS MATTER IN A MONTH. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER SUCH A PROCEDURE WAS CONSULTATION AND SUGGESTED THAT NATO NOT REPEAT NOT GIVE ITS VIEWS TO THE GON UNTIL NATO WAS READY. IN THE MEANTIME, HE SAID, IF THE GON DOES NOT WISH TO WAIT FOR NATOS VIEWS, THAT IS THE GONS PROBLEM, NOT NATOS. THE FUNDA-
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PAGE 03 NATO 02826 220600Z

MENTAL ISSUE OF THE DISCUSSION WAS WHETHER A COUNTRY, NOT JUST AN ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HAS MADE A COLLECTIVE DEFENSE CONTRACT, IS GOING TO MEET ITS COMMITMENTS. THE REDUCTIONS PROPOSED RAISED MORAL PROBLEMS. MOREOVER, IF THE NETHERLANDS REDUCED, OTHER ALLIES WOULD FIND THEMSELVES OBLIGED TO SHOULDER ADDITIONAL BURDENS. THE NETHERLANDS PLAN CALLED INTO QUESTION ALLIED SOLIDARITY. ADDITIONALLY, HE WARNED ABOUT THE CONTAGIOUS EFFECT OF SUCH REDUCTIONS UPON OTHER ALLIES. FINALLY, AS A PERSONAL COMMENT, HE SAID THAT EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTIONS, THROUGH LAXITY, HAD REACHED SCANDALOUS DEGRADATION TO THE POINT THAT THOSE NATIONS MIGHT LOSE THEIR VOICES IN THE COUNCIL OF NATIONS.

5. KRAPF(FRG) CONCURRED WITH HILL-NORTON AND DE STAERCKE.

HE CITED THE PROBLEM CREATED FOR "FORWARD DEFENSE," AND SAID HE VIEWED THE CONTAGIOUS EFFECT AS VERY, VERY ALARMING.

6. MCAULIFFE(US) ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH FOREGOING SPEAKERS AND CALLED FOR A CAREFUL REVIEW BY ALLIED CAPITALS AND BY THE NMA OF THE IMPACT OF THE PLAN ON THE INTEGRATED MILITARY DEFENCE AND ON NATOS ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT ITS AGREED STRATEGY. HE BELIEVED THE US WOULD REVIEW THE PLAN IN THE LIGHT OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGERS VIEWS ON THE NEED FOR THE ALLIES TO ENHANCE NATOS CONVENTIONAL DETERRENT AND TO IMPROVE CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE CAPABILITIES. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE GON ORAL AND WRITTEN STATEMENT THAT ITS PROPOSED DEFENSE PLAN IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT MBFR TALKS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL WHICH DID NOT SQUARE WITH EARLIER DISCUSSIONS IN THE NAC. HE ASKED THE NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVES WHAT ADDITIONAL DEFENSE TASKS THEY PLANNED TO ASSUME AS TRADEOFFS IN SPECIALIZATION, SINCE SPECIALIZATION SHOULD NOT BE AN EXCUSE FOR DROPPING TASKS THAT ANOTHER ALLY SOULD HAVE TO PICK UP TO MAINTIAN THE COLLECTIVE DEFENSE. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS AT JUNE 14 DPC MINISTERIAL WOULD PROBABLY WISH TO DISCUSS THE NETHERLANDS DRAFT DEFENSE PLAN.

7. PECK(UK) CONCURRED STRONGLY WITH MCAULIFFES POINT ABOUT MBFR, SUPPORTED THE NEED FOR TRADEOFFS IN SPECIALIZATION AND WONDERED WHAT THE SOVIET REACTION WOULD BE TO THE SECRET

PAGE 04 NATO 02826 220600Z

NETHERLANDS PLAN AND ITS LIKELY CONTAGIOUS EFFECT ON OTHER ALLIES.

8. HARTOGH(NETH) HOPED THAT NATO COULD PROVIDE THE GON WITH FIRST IMPRESSIONS WITHIN THE PERIOD REQUESTED. HE CHARACTERIZED DE STAERCKES INTERVENTION AS BEING AS "BRUTAL" AS HIS OWN STATEMENT. HE OFFERED TO PROVIDE NATO THE FINANCIAL DATA REQUESTED, INCLUDING PLANNED DEFENSE BUDGETS AS A PERCENT OF GNP - WHICH HE CLAIMED WOULD REMAIN ABOUT THE SAME. HE SAID THE GON WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE TRADEOFFS IN SPECIALIZATION. HE SAID THE PLAN WAS BASED ON THE HYPOTHESIS THAT REDUCTIONS WOULD BE FEASIBLE WITHIN MBFR AND THAT HE HAD NOT RECIEVED A SATISFACTORY ANSWER FROM THE HAGUE ON WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SUCH REDUCTIONS WERE NOT FEASIBLE.

9. PANS(ACTING SYG) SUMMED UP BY NOTING THE VERY SERIOUS CONCERN EXPRESSED BY DPC REPRESENTATIVES. HE WONDERED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF SUCH A PLAN ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE US CONGRESS. HE EXPRESSED SIMILAR CONCERN ABOUT THE MBFR ASPECT AND THE PLAN'S CONTAGIOUS EFFECT. HE HOPED THE GON WOULD TAKE NATOS VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT AND SUGGESTED THAT NATO ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE THE GON ITS COMPRESSED EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PLAN BY JUNE 24.

HARTOGH PROMISED TO SEEK GON AGREEMENT TO THAT DATE.

MCAULIFFE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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